

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A camouflage tire having an elastomeric coating adhering to at least one external surface, said coating comprising a plurality of colored regions, which in total,
5 comprise a camouflage pattern.

2. The camouflage tire of claim 1, wherein said elastomeric coating is of the thickness between about 0.1 and about 2 microns.

10 3. The camouflage tire of claim 1, wherein said elastomeric coating comprises an elastomer selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic rubber, halogenated rubbers, polyurethanes, polyacrylics, polyacrylates, chloropolymers, fluoropolymers, EPDM, silicone rubber, polychloroprene, epichlorohydrin, acrylonitrile rubber, hydrogenated acrylonitrile rubber, zinc salts of
15 unsaturated carboxylic acid ester grafted hydrogenated nitrile butadiene elastomer, natural rubber, synthetic polyisoprene, styrene-butadiene rubber, 1,4-trans-polybutadiene, ethylene-vinyl-acetate copolymer, ethylene methacrylate copolymers and terpolymers, chlorinated polyethylene, chlorosulfonated polyethylene, alkylated chlorosulfonated polyethylene, trans-polyoctenamer, polyacrylic rubber, and the like,
20 and mixtures thereof.

4. The camouflage tire of claim 1, wherein said elastomeric coating comprises a colorant.

25 5. The camouflage tire of claim 1, wherein said elastomeric coating comprises a colorant selected from the group consisting of dyes and pigments.

6. The camouflage tire of claim 1, wherein said elastomeric coating comprises curing agents.

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7. The camouflage tire of claim 1, wherein said at least one external surfaces is selected from the bead surface, sidewall surface, and tread surface.

8. The camouflage tire of claim 1, wherein said at least one external surface is a sidewall surface.

9. The camouflage tire of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises at least
5 two distinct color regions in a forest, mountain region, or desert camouflage pattern, said colors selected from olive drab, brown, yellow, tan, and black.

10. A camouflage tire having an external surface comprising a plurality of colored regions, which in total, comprise a camouflage pattern that reduces or
10 eliminates a viewer's visual perception of the tire against the given environmental background.

11. A method of applying a camouflage pattern to a tire, comprising the
steps of
15 sequentially applying two or more layers of liquid comprising at least one elastomer and a colorant, each layer being applied to all or part of an external tire surface;
drying or curing said two or more layers to form an elastomeric coating
on said external tire surface;
20 such that a plurality of color regions disposed on said external tire surface is obtained, which in total, comprises a camouflage pattern.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of cleaning said
external surface prior to applying said liquid comprising said at least one elastomer.

25 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said liquid comprises water or solvent-based carrier; and an elastomer selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic rubber, halogenated rubbers, polyurethanes, polyacrylics, polyacrylates, chloropolymers, fluoropolymers, EPDM, silicone rubber, polychloroprene,
30 epichlorohydrin, acrylonitrile rubber, hydrogenated acrylonitrile rubber, zinc salts of unsaturated carboxylic acid ester grafted hydrogenated nitrile butadiene elastomer, natural rubber, synthetic polyisoprene, styrene-butadiene rubber, 1,4-trans-polybutadiene, ethylene-vinyl-acetate copolymer, ethylene methacrylate copolymers

and terpolymers, chlorinated polyethylene, chlorosulfonated polyethylene, alkylated chlorosulfonated polyethylene, trans-polyoctenamer, polyacrylic rubber, and the like, and mixtures thereof.

5 14. The method of claim 11, wherein said elastomeric coating is of the thickness between about 0.1 and about 2 microns.

 15. The method of claim 11, wherein said colorant is selected from the group consisting of dyes and pigments.

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 16. The method of claim 11, wherein said liquid further comprises curing agents.

 17. The method of claim 11, wherein said cleaning step comprises cleaning
15 said external surface with an alcohol.

 18. The method of claim 11, wherein said at least one external surface is a sidewall surface.

20 19. The method of claim 11, wherein the coating comprises at least two distinct color regions in a forest, mountain region, or desert camouflage pattern, said colors selected from olive drab, brown, yellow, tan, and black.

 20. The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of pre-treating said
25 external surface with a chlorinating agent prior to applying said liquid comprising said at least one elastomer.